

**Commissioner Deborah A. Gist's Weekly Field Memo**  
**Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**From other state agencies:**

FEMA and RIEMA launch Web site to educate students about [emergency planning](#)

**Other:**

Applications ready for [Fulbright Awards](#) in Teaching

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**From other state agencies:**

**FEMA and RIEMA launch Web site to educate students about emergency planning**

Please see the following notice from the Emergency Management Agency:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) in partnership with The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency has launched a Web site created to help educate and energize fourth and fifth grade students to lead their families in implementing key preparedness strategies to deal with emergencies of all kinds. The program is called STEP, (Student Tools for Emergency Planning)

The new Web site is hosted on RIEMA's Web site, [www.riema.ri.gov/step](http://www.riema.ri.gov/step).

Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP), is a fun, low cost and progressive educational program that prepares children for many disasters and positively affects family and community readiness and has great potential, if nationalized, to change America's culture similar to previously successful seat belt and stop-drop-roll programs. FEMA Region 1, National Preparedness Division, and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency have partnered for the last 14 months to create and cultivate this wonderful elementary school program that has been taught by teachers, school administrators, high school students, police officers, parents, FEMA employees, private sector partners and student teachers; more than 150 in just the first prototype year alone.

The expandable one hour program in preparedness can be taught in different formats including Geography, Math, Science, Performing and Language Arts. The program was originally developed by An extraordinary FEMA employee who was a former elementary school teacher from Baton Rouge, LA during Hurricane Katrina. She worked the original prototype with teachers in the North Providence Rhode Island school system and enhanced the program with their input for program applications throughout New England.

RIEMA notes that you may contact Michelle Collins with FEMA, Region 1 for information about implementing STEP in your school: [FEMA-R1-STEP@dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-R1-STEP@dhs.gov), or 617- 956-7544

**Other:**

## **Applications ready for Fulbright Awards in Teaching**

Please see this announcement from the Academy for Educational Development regarding 2010-11 Fulbright Awards:

The Academy for Educational Development (AED) is pleased to announce the application for the 2010-2011 cycle of the Distinguished Fulbright Awards in Teaching program. This particular Fulbright program is sponsored by The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of States, and it is administered by AED in coordination with ECA in Washington, DC.

The Distinguished Fulbright Awards in Teaching program seeks to attract highly qualified and experienced K-12 teachers from the United States and eight other participating countries (see list below). The main focus of the program is to provide an opportunity for teachers to conduct a variety of professional development activities during a three to six month period. Selected and approved teachers will:

1. Enroll in graduate level classes at a host university
2. Complete a "capstone" project which will be practical in nature and relevant to trends in teaching and learning practices
3. Design and give lectures and/or workshops for host country teachers
4. Observe and assist with classes in host country local schools
5. Engage in other teaching related activities

At the completion of the Fulbright grant, teachers from the United States will be expected to share the knowledge and experience gained in other countries with their students and colleagues at their home schools and communities.

**Participating countries for the 2010-2011 Distinguished Awards in Teaching program are:**

Argentina, Finland, India, Israel, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, and the United Kingdom (U.K.)

**NOTE:** Teachers from the community college and university levels in the United States can apply for the grant in Mexico and the United Kingdom.

**Important Dates and Program Time-line:**

**February 15, 2010:      Application deadline: U.S. Teacher must send documents to the AED office.**

March 2010:          Technical review of applications.

April 2010:          Selection committee reviews applications and recommends candidates.

May 2010:           All U.S. teacher applicants will be notified of their status by AED.

August 2010:        Mandatory orientation program in Washington, D.C. for selected U.S and international teachers.

Please note that U.S. teachers will have from September 2010 until July 2011 to complete their three-six month Fulbright grant. Please review the handbook for more information about specific country program dates.

We hope that you will share this information with your colleagues and fellow educators who might have an interest in applying for this unique Fulbright opportunity designed to promote professional development for teachers. For your convenience, we have attached to this email the 2010-11 application and handbook, which provides important detailed information about program components and eligibility requirements.

**Applications must be submitted electronically and in hard-copy to the AED office by February 15, 2010.**

For more program details, please see:

[www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org](http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org).

For questions:

Email: [fulbrightdat@aed.org](mailto:fulbrightdat@aed.org)

Phone: 202.464.3819

Please feel free to share this information with educators in your community.